

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated NET-4 modulator selected from the group consisting of an antisense oligonucleotide, a ribozyme, a protein, a polypeptide, and a small molecule.

2. The isolated NET-4 modulator of claim 1 wherein said NET-4 modulator is an antisense molecule.

3. The isolated NET-4 modulator of claim 2 wherein said antisense molecule or the complement thereof comprises at least 15 consecutive nucleic acids of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

4. The isolated NET-4 modulator of claim 3 wherein said antisense molecule or the complement thereof hybridizes under high stringency conditions to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

5. The isolated NET-4 modulator of claim 2 wherein said antisense molecule comprises a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2-6.

6. The isolated NET-4 modulator of claim 1 wherein said NET-4 modulator is selected from the group consisting of an antibody and an antibody fragment.

7. The isolated NET-4 modulator of claim 6 wherein said antibody or antibody fragment is monoclonal.

8. The isolated NET-4 modulator of claim 7 wherein said antibody or antibody fragment is humanized.

9. A composition, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a NET-4 modulator in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. The composition of claim 9, comprising two or more NET-4 modulators.

11. The composition of claim 9 wherein said NET-4 modulator is an antisense molecule.

12. A method of decreasing the expression of NET-4 in a mammalian cell, comprising administering to said cell a NET-4 inhibitor of claim 1:

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said NET-4 modulator is an antisense molecule.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said antisense molecule or the complement thereof comprises at least 15 consecutive nucleic acids of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein said antisense molecule or the complement thereof hybridizes under high stringency conditions to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein said antisense molecule comprises a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2-6.

17. The method of claim 12 wherein said NET-4 modulator is selected from the group consisting of a protein and a polypeptide.

18. The method of claim 12 wherein said NET-4 modulator is a small molecule.

19. The method of claim 12 wherein said NET-4 modulator is administered *ex vivo* to said mammalian cell.

20. A method of treating neoplastic disease, comprising administering to a mammalian cell a NET-4 modulator of claim 1 such that said neoplastic disease is reduced in severity.

21. A diagnostic kit for detecting the presence of a colon tumor cell in a biological sample, said kit comprising at least one oligonucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:18, 19, 20, 21 and 22, and at least one control oligonucleotide that does not hybridize with a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1 under stringent conditions.

22. The kit of claim 21 comprising at least 3 of said oligonucleotides.

23. The kit of claim 21 comprising said five oligonucleotides.